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THE OWNERSHIP AND PRESERVATION OF MEDAL DIES.

A Medal: a *metallum*, or piece of metal *par excellence*, ennobled by the imagination and hand of the artist, and treasured up with discrimination in the cabinet of the man of taste—what, let us reflect, are the objects with which this bit of ordinary, or, it may be, base, material has been thus transformed and glorified?

Invent a labor-saving machine; write a divine poem; raise the fallen out of the mire; lead your countrymen to victory: or (to take a lower flight) strut your hour on the stage; compose an opera; advocate negro-suffrage; convert the Mormons, so that they may leave off taking wives by wholesale, and begin to deal in liquor by retail: do any one of these or similar things; and you are likely to be rewarded by appreciative and unselfish friends—who know that if to be praised is sweet, to praise is not unpleasant—with a disc of gold, large or small, bearing your effigy on the one side, on the other a device mythological or simply emblematic, figuratively setting forth how good and great you are. Such a testimonial is indeed gratifying; particularly if the recipient know—and what recipient does not know in such cases?—that he really merits it; or if it be conferred by a public body, spontaneously, without any hint from the candidate that it would be acceptable—and when was such a hint ever given?—or, again, if the considerable sum required to do the thing handsomely be liberally subscribed by the donors—and who, we ask, ever suspected the donee of contributing to such a fund?

Seriously; in this democratic, anti-hereditary-titular country of ours, we can conceive of no heirloom more precious to a family than an honorary medal bestowed on its ancestor by honorable persons, shewing that he achieved that acme of distinction in the estimation of the ancient: "*laudari a laudato viro*". To render honor where honor is due is therefore the first and principal object of a Medal. But is this all? Do its scope and function end here? That would be to confine the compliment within narrow bounds, and to do at the same time rank injustice to the artist. The indefinite power of multiplication involved in the use of Dies—for we dismiss with contempt certain electrotyped and engraved pseudo-medals with which public men have in recent instances been presented—would then be sacrificed; and none, but persons already intimate with the hero of the Medal or his family, could enjoy an opportunity of sympathizing, while they examined the work, with the feeling

in which it originated, or admiring the form in which genius had embodied the sentiment. No! The Dies of Honorary Medals should be carefully preserved. Individuals or committees ordering them to be cut should insist on their being delivered at the same time with the required amount of impressions. That amount having been made proportionate to the number of personal friends and admirers, added to the number of amateurs desiring to keep specimens in their cabinets, and all these having been supplied with copies in the metals less costly than the gold of the original, the Dies should then be properly waxed and safely put away, to be used again when further demand may occur. Exorbitant prices would thus cease to be asked. These arise, at present, either from the reckless destruction and thoughtless spoiling of Dies, or from their wrongful retention by those who have wrought them, and who afterwards strike impressions rarely, with the view of keeping up their cost.

We admit that the deliberate mutilation of Dies is in one case justifiable. Collectors are prone to inquire whether Dies have been destroyed, and are wont to express much satisfaction on learning that it is so. In this they are excusable, for it is natural to delight in having what others cannot have; but the act itself, we repeat, can be defended in a single class of instances only. This is where subscriptions are solicited for the production of a Medal, and urged on the ground of certain scarcity and value to result from devoting the Dies to death, after they have given birth to a fixed number of offspring. But we are speaking rather of Public Medals, than of such private or social enterprises, in which money is hard to obtain.

The Dies of all United States Medals, it is evident, ought to be kept in the Mint, and impressions should be furnished from them to any applicant at a reasonable price. Such is the plan adopted there, and recently improved and systematized by the present Director, Hon. Henry R. Linderman, in his excellent "Circular Letter". Similarly, the Dies of State Medals and of City Medals might be kept in the respective State and Corporation Libraries, and impressions from them should be furnished to any applicant, at cost. It would be unworthy of any Legislature or Municipality to seek therefrom a petty profit, restrictive, virtually, of that circulation, without which, as we have seen, no Medal can perfectly fulfil its object.

It would be better, indeed, if *all* important Dies were to be deposited in the Mint. Let the Bliss Dies, now in the State Library at Albany; the Herndon Dies, now in the Capitol at Richmond; the Dies of the Stuart, Trumbull, and Allston Medals, now in possession of the New York Historical Society, be transferred thither! These Dies are at present entirely out of place, and will gradually rust, and eventually become worthless. If preserved in our Government Mint, its watchful care would be over them; and the experience of its employees would guard them from injury, for the gratification and benefit of many generations.

Let us, then, hope and labor that the following principles may be better observed in the future: first, that Dies, as belonging to those who order the Medal, be surrendered to their lawful owners; and, secondly, that impressions from those Dies be furnished, on demand, at cost. A glance, meanwhile, at what has been neglected heretofore, may shew that our remarks are not uncalled for. Where are the Dies of that exquisite Independence Medal, the "*Libertas Americana*", devised by Benjamin Franklin and Sir William Jones, and executed by the French die-sinker Dupré? No one knows where; and the consequence is that a work of art, which ought to be in every moderately wealthy household in the United States, can be procured only at the price of from six to ten dollars in copper, and about fifty dollars in silver. Surely the great practical philosopher must have been dreaming when he left these Dies unclaimed; or do they yet exist forgotten in the possession of some heir? Where are the Dies of the Vanderbilt Medal, ordered by Congress at the expense of some three thousand dollars? In private hands. The Commodore and Director Linderman should see that the Government demand the property for which it paid so liberally, and that the National Mint become its custodian. The United States Government should also buy, of the family of C. C. Wright, the three Dies of the large "Independence" Medal, the greatest work of that greatest of our native artists. They should purchase from the owner the Dies of the Clay and Webster Medals, by the same skilful hand; and secure those of the Premium Medal of the Exhibition of the Industry of All Nations in 1853. Where are the Dies of the Hartstein Medal of the State of New York; the Medal awarded by the citizens of New York, in 1848, to Col. James Duncan; by the City of New York to the New York Volunteers in Mexico; by the citizens of New York, in 1858, to Cyrus W. Field; and by the citizens of New York, in 1861, to Major Robert Anderson? Where are the Dies of the Medal presented by the City of Charleston, S. C., to the Charleston Volunteers in Mexico, and those

of the Medal presented by South Carolina to the Palmetto Regiment in the same war? All these Dies were paid for by the public, and should be placed where the public, for years to come, may be profited by them. The Chamber of Commerce of the City of New York has issued two Cable Medals, which are in "private hands". The Louisiana Medal of Gen. Taylor, reverse Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, is in the same "barathron". Where are the Dies of the fine Medal voted to Gen. Thomas by the State of Tennessee, or those of that magnificent work of Paquet which the City of Philadelphia presented to Gen. Meade? Echo answers, Where? But collectors know full well that the two latter can hardly be obtained at all; or, if at all, only at a thumping and extravagant outlay. Hence, according to our view, they are robbed of their money, while hero and artist are defrauded of a portion of their well-earned fame.

Here we close our remarks, trusting that they may fall like a little seed into fruitful soil, and contribute to the establishment of a proper basis and system for the Medallist Art in a country where it has to anticipate so rich and wide a field.

THE LATIN MEDAL.

The Editor must not be surprised. There have been many, perhaps too many, Latin medals; *i. e.*, bearing inscriptions in Latin. But the one whose short story is now to be offered, must take the first honor in Latinity.

Nearly a year ago the school directors of a populous district resolved to do the handsome thing in getting up a medal for the most deserving scholars. Of course, the legend must be some wise saying, in classic Latin. The dies were made, and a few specimen medals struck. They were not mean ones; an inch and three-quarters in diameter, with an elaborate device, in which a draped table, a sheet of music, a pair of globes, a quadrant, a telescope, and an open Bible, were grouped together. Over all this was a legend, containing the solemn assurance that *SCIENTIA SINE RELIGIO VANITATEM EST*.

It was handed about for criticisms. A general guffaw was the greeting, from all who had been at Latin school, and remembered the rules. Such a medal as that to go abroad from a grammar-school, with two hideous blunders in five words! About equal to "Him and I learns Latin".

But the promoters would not give it up on inferior authority. It must be carried to the highest Court. Accordingly they addressed inquiries to at least half a dozen learned professors.

The answers were somewhat in the following order. The first declared that there could be no two opinions; it was monstrous and ridiculous. The next declared there could be but one sound opinion; it was good Latin, and none but sciolists would fail to see it. The verb *est* was not from *esse*, but from *edo*; and *sine*, by a license of composition, was put *after* the noun which agreed with it. So that instead of meaning, "Science (or Knowledge) without Religion, is Vanity", it was properly, "Without Science, Religion feeds on Vanity".

Strange to say, when the positive professor, number one, came in and saw this explanation, he directly gave in. But now came more letters, all condemning the Latinity, but each taking separate ground. Said one, "It seems to be a poor attempt at wit; a play upon words by giving them a twist". Another said it was a snare to catch sciolists, and in violation of classic usage. A third affirmed that even if *scientia* could be allowed to be in the ablative, the word *est*, if from *edo*, when applied to inanimate or abstract objects, did not mean *to feed upon*, but *to devour* or *destroy*. And thus we should have the sentiment that, "Religion without knowledge destroys vanity", which is the very opposite to the truth.

The writer of this article asked the opinion of two other professors, men of eminent attainments, especially in the Latin language. One of them was cautious in his written reply: "Professor No. 5 is undoubtedly right in his edition of *est*. It means the act of eating up, irrespective of any assimilation of food, or nourishment from it. Of the arbitrariness, among poets, of the position of the preposition, we have abundant instances; thus Horace, '*Nam vitis nemo sine nascitur*', &c., which is more tortuous than '*Scientia sine*', &c. The apothegm admits of a third construction, if we consider *sine* as a conjunction, equivalent to *si non*; the sentence would then mean, 'Learning, even if it be not Religion, consumes Vanity'; a maxim which is acceptable".

The other gentleman being asked, "Is this an attempt at wit, or is it a show of ignorance?" briefly replied, "Both".

In fine, the medal was suppressed; but one of the savans above referred to thought the story too good to be kept from the public, and so you have it. And now I refer the matter to the decision of the learned editor, asking leave to conclude with a moral, in the same sort of Latin: "*Est Vanitas Inscriptio in Lingua defuncta*."

PHILADELPHIA, November, 1867.

NUMMULARIUS.

CURIOSITIES OF THE FRANKFORT COINAGE.

Description: A Thaler; Obv. A majestic full-length female figure, extending a wreath with the right hand, and resting the left arm on a long shield bearing a double-headed eagle; in the field, JULI 1862; leg. EIN GEDENKTHALER ZUM DEUTSCHEN SCHÜTZENFESTE*: Rev. A crowned eagle displayed; leg. FREIE STADT FRANKFURT†: Edge, STARK IM RECHT‡.

Do any of our readers possess this coin? If so, let them prize it, for it is a memorial of the genius and patriotism of the great artist Fanny Janauschek, who is now delighting us with her high-wrought tragic personations. Our statement is authentic, being derived from Miss Janauschek herself, who, with a degree of courtesy for which we feel much indebted, answered in the following terms our inquiry on the subject:

"227 East 12th, New York, Nov. 20, 1867.

"Miss Fanny Janauschek's compliments to Professor Anthon, and in reply to his letter of the 18th inst. begs to say that she was for ten years a member of the theatre at Frankfort on the Main, and much liked and esteemed by all the citizens, who in the year 1862 invited all the Volunteer Rifles (Schützen) of the common Fatherland to the first Prize-Shooting of Germany at Frankfort. During the same, an amateur performance, by the élite of Frankfort, was given at that place, and Miss Janauschek was invited to represent 'Germania'. She addressed to 30000 Schützen a patriotic speech, calling on them to be united; and, out of regard and respect to her, a silver coin was struck, representing her as 'Germania', and a German (black, red and gold) flag was presented to her."

Of the late Free City of Frankfort, now absorbed into the kingdom of Prussia, there exist other thalers, both single and double, likewise graced with the portrait of a lady, but by no means to be confounded with the one above noticed. In our own cabinet we have, besides the "Germania" or "Janauschek" Thaler, three others, dated, respectively, 1857, 1858, and 1860. They all bear, on the obverse, a very pleasing bust of a female crowned with oak-leaves; and the first two have a tower in the right hand portion of the field, and another in the left, described in Thieme's Leipsic catalogue, from which the pieces were purchased, as the Parish-Church tower, and that of the Eschenheim Gate, and distinguishing these varieties as rare. We also refer the reader to the catalogue of Woodward's Fifth Semi-Annual Sale, wherein lot 260, manifestly a coin of the same family with the three above mentioned, is thus strangely recorded: "A double Thaler of the free State of Frankfort, 1861. This rare coin, bearing the bust of the beautiful mistress of Baron Rothschild, was recalled by the Baron in consequence of the disagreeable notoriety which this circumstance occasioned; known as the *Love Thaler*; a splendid uncirculated piece". Now one part of these remarks *must* be incorrect, for we find the piece issued in at least four successive years: '57, '58, '60, '61. How much of truth there may be in the remainder we know not. Common report is a common liar, but she certainly does connect this mysterious lady, whatever her name may be, with one of the Lions of the Tribe of Judah in Frankfort. Witness the following extract, for which we are indebted to Mr. Moore, of Trenton Falls, from the New York Albion of March 15, 1862:

LOVE COINS IN GERMANY. Quite lately a great sensation has been produced in some German towns by the appearance of a novel coin, struck from the purest silver, and betraying the master's hand in every line of its admirable design and workmanship. On the one side are represented the arms of the city of Frankfort, and on the other, which chiefly concerns us, the likeness of a beautiful woman. I shall not enter into a detailed catalogue of the charms of the fair one, as they are chronicled by the daily press. Suffice it to say that the descriptions show her to be the most divine among women, "ravishing and playing havoc with the senses". The head is gracefully set, and the bust only needs the continuation that is denied by the limits of the frame to compare with that of the incomparable Venus of Milo. "Soft locks", falling upon "charming shoulders", complete the discomfiture of the hopeless admirers. Now the genesis of the coin, and the origin of the design that makes it remarkable, are said to be as follows: An illustrious prince among capitalists, belonging to a Frankfort house whose members distribute themselves amid the large capitals of Europe, and dispose of the destinies of kings and emperors—a chief of this great clan, I repeat, had been smitten down before the feet of a fair one. How should he display the intensity of his feelings? There was but one resource to suggest itself to the mind of such an extraordinary man. It possessed also the additional advantage of killing two birds with one stone. A coin should be struck, doing honor alike to the woman of his choice and the good city in which they were both residents. The artist, however, to whom the task was intrusted, committed the imprudence of adding the lady's name in finely cut characters, which, though microscopically small, could yet be discerned by the owners of sharp and inquisitive eyes. Those eyes were found in the possession of a member belonging to a rival firm in the same town. Following up the freak of the enamored inventor, the brother capitalist expended a portion of his fabulous wealth in multiplying some hundred-fold the original coins, and distributing them among his friends. Many of the singular love tokens have found their way to Vienna, and other towns of Germany.—*Letter from Vienna.*

Here again, we at once disprove a portion of what is alleged, by the evidence of the senses. The name mentioned is not "microscopically small", but rather larger in its lettering than what mint-masters usually employ in claiming their own work. It is "A. v. Nordheim", and as it appears on the base of the figure of "Germania" also, as well as attached to a representation of the "Römer", or old Council-House of Frankfort, on another thaler of the same city in our possession, it clearly denotes some official of the Frankfort Mint. Hence the rigmarole of the Vienna correspondent is to a certain extent exposed; but the original question recurs: Who and what was the lady?

* A Commemoration Dollar for the German Riflemen's Festival.

† Free City Frankfort.

‡ Strong in the Right.

TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

NOTICE.—*The American Numismatic and Archæological Society will be at all times pleased to communicate with any individuals or Societies, on Numismatic or Archæological topics, to answer questions and give all information desired. Letters of inquiry addressed to "Prof. CHAS. E. ANTHON, Cor. Sec'y, College of the City of New York," will receive prompt attention.*

Regular Meeting, Nov. 14, 1867.—Dr. Geo. H. Perine, Vice-President, in the chair.

The Committee on procuring a new Seal for the Society presented their Report, and exhibited impressions of the Seal. It was designed by a member of the Society, and executed by Mr. Geo. H. Lovett, the distinguished Medalist and Seal-Engraver. The Device consists of white-oak leaves and acorns, with the Motto, "Parva ne Pereant", and the name of the Society in Latin abbreviated.

A donation of Coins and Medals was received from Mr. J. N. T. Levick, and a volume of "Laws of New York", 1752-1762, from Mr. Sandham, of Montreal.

The following gentlemen were proposed for Corresponding-Membership: Judge John Phelps Putnam, of Boston, Mass.; Rev. J. M. Finotti, of Brookline, Mass.; Mr. John K. Wiggin, of Boston, Mass.; Mr. F. S. Perkins, of Burlington, Wis.; Mr. J. Parker, of Springfield, Mass.; Mr. Matthew A. Stickney, of Salem, Mass.; Mr. Jos. H. Taylor, of Charleston, S. C.; Mr. M. Moore, of Trenton Falls, N. Y.; Mr. Heman Ely, of Elyria, Ohio; and Mr. A. Sandham, of Montreal, Canada; all of whom were unanimously elected Corresponding Members of the Society.

Messrs. Jeremiah Colburn, of Boston, Mass., and Joseph J. Mickley, of Philadelphia, Penn., were proposed for Honorary-Membership; and the election was laid over, in accordance with the Rules.

Mr. Mortimer L. Mackenzie, of the Society, exhibited his collection of United States Cents, containing twenty-five proof pieces, and the remainder being uncirculated. It is considered to be one of the very finest series of our copper coinage extant, and has been in process of formation by its liberal and discriminating owner for twelve years past. Prof. Anthon exhibited two Coronation-Medals, in copper bronzed, the one of Francis Joseph, Emperor, the other of Elizabeth, Empress, of Austria, struck at Vienna, as the letter A beneath each head denotes, on the occasion of their being crowned King and Queen of Hungary, at Buda, in the present year. The Medals were admired for their tasteful invention and exquisite workmanship.

On motion, adjourned.

C. D. F. BURNS,

Recording Secretary pro tem.

Thursday, Nov. 28, being Thanksgiving-Day, the Regular Meeting of the Society did not take place.

NEW ENGLAND NUMISMATIC AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

At the Regular Monthly Meeting of this Society, on Thursday evening, Nov. 21, 1867, after transacting the usual business of the Society, various communications from members of other Societies were read. Mr. Crosby exhibited a beautiful Washington "Fame" Medal, and a Rosa Americana Farthing, in splendid condition; also a Rosa Americana Farthing of 1725, which date is believed to be unknown to collectors. Mr. Fellows exhibited a variety of rare colonial coins, and Mr. Choplin a beautiful medal of Martin Folkes, a celebrated numismatist. After receiving reports of various committees, the meeting adjourned.

BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

The Monthly Meeting was held on Thursday, Nov. 7. The report of the previous meeting was read and accepted. No business of importance was transacted, but the members of the Society were treated to a most interesting exhibition of beautiful and rare coins and medals. Mr. Seavey showed about thirty pieces, among which were five Farthings of the Rosa Americana series, including one not in the Mickley Sale, all in very fine condition; the small copper from the Mickley Sale, known as the New England Stiver, and the large pattern Cent of 1792, with the lettered edge; also six varieties of the Cent of 1793, all choice specimens, a brilliant Cent of 1798, which certainly has only one rival, and a Cent of 1812, which is a perfect gem; and a complete proof-set in all metals of the U. S. Coinage of 1867.

The Secretary exhibited just a "baker's dozen", in which were several remarkable pieces of great rarity and of historic interest, beginning with a perfect set, Shilling, Sixpence and Threepence of the first Massachusetts Coinage, the N. E. type, which were followed by the New England Ele-

phant Half-penny of 1694, from the Mickley Sale, and the two patterns for 1000 and 500 mills of 1783, from the same source. The other pieces comprised the two varieties of the large Cent of 1792, one with edge plain, the other inscribed, as Mr. Seavey's, "TO BE ESTEEMED BE USEFUL"; the Washington, rev. "Confederatio 1785", from the Mickley Sale, and a series of four Washington Tokens, with the reverse of "Liberty and Security". The Secretary stated his belief, that no other collection, public or private, could show more than half of the pieces brought by him to the meeting.

All these coins and medals were much admired, and both gentlemen were congratulated on their valuable possessions. Various matters of numismatic interest were discussed, and the meeting adjourned at 5 P. M.

WM. S. APPLETON, *Sec.*

RHODE ISLAND NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION.

Regular Meeting, Nov. 18, 1867.—The President in the chair. The records of the last meeting were read and approved. The opinions of several prominent numismatists relative to the R. F. were discussed, but the Association finally concluded to postpone the subject for further investigation. The remainder of the evening was passed in examining the following pieces secured by members of the Association at the Mickley Sale: Mr. Winsor exhibited Cents of the following dates: Liberty Cap 1793, cracked die; 1795, thick planchet; 1796, fillet head, No. 1962; 1798, No. 1972; 1822, and 1823, No. 2021; also a number of uncirculated American Political Tokens. Mr. Jenks exhibited a 1793 Cent, No. 1940. Mr. Hersey exhibited several specimens of rare English and American Silver. The splendid condition of all of these pieces excited universal admiration. The three varieties of the Rhode Island or Lord Howe Medal, in brass, were also on exhibition from the cabinet of Mr. George T. Paine. On motion, the Association adjourned to December 16th.

JOHN J. MEADER, *Secretary.*

THE MICKLEY SALE.

SECOND NOTICE.

Mr. Woodward remarks, in a letter which we have had the pleasure of receiving, dated Nov. 16: "While I cheerfully accord to my learned and obliging friend Strobridge the merit pertaining to the foreign portion of the Catalogue, I will not allow him to bear any blame for the short-comings of the American portion, which is of course, as in all my other Catalogues, my own work". From the same authority we learn that the gross amount of the Auction-Sale was about \$13,300, that the gold was sold for \$1,600, and that the remainder of the collection will be so disposed of that the whole will produce above \$16,500. We are grieved to hear, from a friend in Philadelphia, that the dispersion of these coins has had a very depressing effect on Mr. Mickley, who has been ill, but is now recovering. He must feel like Rachel in Ramah, thus bereft of the children of his fancy. Why should he not begin to collect *de novo*, after first providing himself with a Herring's safe, more impervious to burglars than an Egyptian pyramid?

To recur to our promised notes on the American portion of the sale: the Dollar of 1794 was bought by Col. Cohen at \$75, and the Dollar of 1804 by Mr. Lilliendahl, for just ten times that sum. The Proof-Set of 1827, consisting of three pieces only, Half, Quarter, and Dime, but probably unique, was purchased by Mr. Reakirt at \$180. Mr. Lilliendahl came into possession of all the Proof-Sets, in the Collection from 1835 to 1856, inclusive, making, with the omission of certain years, eleven sets in all, at a total cost of \$504. The Cents brought wonderful prices, the first thirteen on the list, comprising all Mr. Mickley's 1793s, producing the sum of \$389.25, and averaging at almost \$30 each. For one of these, considered the finest specimen extant of the "Ameri." variety, \$110 were paid by Mr. M. Livingston Mackenzie. We ought not to omit to mention that Lot 1973, a Cent of 1798, by seeing and acquiring which Mr. Mickley was led to become a collector, was obtained by Mr. Palmer at \$3.50. Passing to the Pattern-Pieces, we note that the Pattern Cent of 1792, with the edge inscribed "To be Esteemed be Useful", was purchased by Mr. Appleton, at \$155.00; and the Flying Eagle Dollar of 1836, with "Gobrecht" in the field, by Mr. Cleneay, at \$57.50.

The members of the American Numismatic and Archæological Society were prominent, throughout the sale, in judicious and liberal outlay; and to those names already mentioned which will be recognized as included in its roll, we add those of Messrs. Defendorf, Levick and Bayard Smith, as frequently called by the auctioneer.

We hear of no other Sale in prospect at the present moment, but doubt not, that as soon as our purses shall have been allowed time to recover from the grand inroad which Mr. Woodward has made on them, we shall be enabled to divide the spoil of some other amateur, who may be disposed to take advantage of the numismatic excitement which the scattering of the Mickley cabinet must have caused throughout the land.

MR. BORG'S (COUNTERMANDED) SALE.—M. Louis Borg, Vice-Consul of France, being about to depart for Europe, and possessing sundry articles of *virtu*, among which was a cabinet of Coins and Medals, bethought himself how to get rid of this last rather unmerchutable property. He advertised his cabinet therefore in the *Herald* as obtainable at the price of \$5,000. Probably no takers came forward, although, as we understood, while M. Borg was willing to take \$3,000 for the collection, he considered it to be actually worth \$6,000. Finally it was announced for public sale, with the paintings, statuary, and other art-treasures of its owner, on Tuesday, Nov. 12, and the following days. We found the Medals to consist chiefly of impressions, in fine condition, from the Napoleon and other Dies which are kept at the Musée Monétaire. The last lots of the Medal Catalogue formed a series which filled an entire drawer, and, comprising the trial-pieces made for the coins of the new Republic, by the artists of France, in *concours*, in 1848, were really interesting and uncommon. The Coin-Catalogue comprised foreign pieces chiefly, and these far from remarkable. The most attractive lot in it was No. 1000, "New Hampshire, five cent token, copper, 1800". There was much interest felt in this, as yet unheard of, piece, and it was anxiously called for and examined; but it turned out to be one of Jerome Bonaparte's Westphalia coppers, on which the monogram of H. N., standing for Hieronymus Napoleon, had been mistaken for N. H., and supposed to denote New Hampshire!

It was the opinion of experts that the Coins and Medals together were worth but fifteen hundred dollars at the very utmost. On Thursday evening, accordingly, when bids were solicited for the entire Cabinet, none were offered; and we were informed that it was the intention of the proprietor, in his desire to keep the Collection unbroken, to present it to the N. Y. Historical Society. We would suggest the American Numismatic and Archaeological, as the more appropriate.

REVIEW.

Memoir of JOHN H. ALEXANDER, LL.D.; By WILLIAM PINKNEY, D.D., Corresponding Member of the Maryland Historical Society, Read before the Maryland Historical Society, on Thursday Evening, May 2, 1867. Printed for the M. H. S., by JOHN MURPHY, Baltimore, 1867. 8vo, pp. 34.

The propriety of our calling attention to the decease of the eminent Dr. Alexander, and noticing the eulogy delivered on the melancholy occasion by his life-long friend, Dr. Pinkney, is attested by the following passage from the pamphlet before us:

"On the questions of coinage, which have of late exercised many of the European governments, he was probably the best informed man in the country. I regret that I have not accurate information as to the actual service he rendered in this particular department of science. All that I know, is, that he went abroad, and was brought into close contact with the masters of the mint in England. The triumphs of his genius were signally displayed before the committee on foreign relations, on the fractional currency. They sent for him to explain it to them, avowing their ignorance of it, and their impression, that it was of little practical importance. Without preparation, he gave them an extended and lucid exposition; and soon convinced them, that it was of vital importance to the commercial interests of the country. He was consulted by the Secretary of the Treasury, on the finances, and was about to be placed at the head of the mint, in Philadelphia, when death closed his career. When the Hon. Wm. B. Reed was about to go out, as Commissioner, to China, Dr. Alexander sent him the most elaborate and exact explanation of the weights, and measures, and coinage of China, which that gentleman found to be of the greatest possible benefit, in the discharge of his duties, as commissioner."

There is a certain vagueness in this panegyric, and an intensity, at the same time, in the laudatory language, which are characteristic of American mutual-admiration-clubs. No doubt however can exist that Prof. Alexander was really a remarkable man, and, in the words of the Memoir, "a star of the first magnitude in the firmament of science, literature and theology". A valued friend of ours in Philadelphia, who corresponded with him extensively, and is by no means one to be dazzled by false pretensions, writes to us of the Professor in terms of the deepest regret for his untimely loss, and of the sincerest astonishment at his "surprising scope of learning, fine taste, and versatility of powers". The same friend observes that, although the deceased was not much of a collector, "he was a profound numismatic scholar, always ready and able to help, on a difficult and far-off point". In a word, our friend compares the deceased to the "Admirable Crichton", and such too is the language of the Memoir. Alexander was "a profound mathematician, a poet, a ripe and varied scholar, a laborious and successful writer, and a punctual man of business". He was also "without question the first linguist of this hemisphere". A bold assertion!

A fresh spirit of enthusiasm pervades this entire production of Dr. Pinkney, and is extremely pleasing to a sympathetic reader, while it secures his esteem for the author as well as for the subject; but the style will not bear critical examination. The words are neither well selected nor accurately put together; yet the language flows with an easy grace, the result, we suppose, of much training for the pulpit; and the "Memoir", as a whole, is a monument worthy of the departed genius whom it commemorates.

THE RHODE ISLAND MEDAL.

PROVIDENCE, Oct. 25, 1867.

C. E. ANTHON, Esq., Editor of AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS :

DEAR SIR :—I have been very much interested in your editorial in the October number of your JOURNAL, but must beg leave to differ from you, and support Mr. Bushnell's theory. I have been repeatedly asked by my friends to write you on this subject, but hesitated from lack of positive "authorities".

I have in my possession a complete "set" (so to speak) in brass, of the medal known as the "Rhode Island Medal". Two of the *three* I think I can trace to the importation of Mr. King, which took place, I think, in the summer of 1864. The other has been in my possession a much longer period.

I have no documents upon which to base my opinions; therefore they must be accepted as only surmises. The story of the occupation of the island of Rhode Island by the British, and of their subsequent withdrawal, is to be found in Arnold's "History of the State of Rhode Island", and need not be detailed here. The retreat of the Americans was accomplished on the night of August 30, 1778, and is commemorated on the *obverse* of the medal by the legend, "D'Vlugtende Americaanen van Rhode Yland Aug^t 1778. The *obverse* on the three medals is in all respects the same.

In the following year the English ministers ordered the withdrawal of all their troops from Rhode Island, and on the 25th of October the British squadron sailed from Narragansett Bay. This circumstance would seem to account for the presence of the word "Vlugtende" in the legend, "De Admiraals Flag van Admiral Howe 1779 vlugtende", which appears on the reverse of the medal.

From these facts, I have always supposed the medal to have been struck in Holland, by some sympathizer with the Americans; and although he may have been a "Mr. Facing-Both-Ways", I still think he originally intended to compliment the Americans upon their successful retreat, and at the same time to ridicule the English in their inability to retain their possessions in Rhode Island.

This variety of the medals I have denominated my No. 1, and place it as far exceeding in rarity either of the others. Mr. Woodward fully agrees with me in this matter, as he says that he has never seen another of this variety.

On No. 2, the word "vlugtende" on the *reverse* has been removed, the marks of the graver being very discernible. This, I have thought, might have been done to remove the satire, and make the medal popular with English partisans; and having proved so, the scroll work on the *third* variety was substituted for the word. I am more strongly inclined to think this the correct reason, from the fact that parts of the letters *v*, *l* and *d* can be traced in the scroll work.

I have simply advanced these theories for the benefit of any interested in the matter, and you are at liberty to make any use of them that you may wish.

On the *obverse* of the medal will be found, under the lowest vessel, a small figure, which I suppose to be the "mint mark" or monogram of the engraver. Can Mr. Bushnell, or any of your correspondents who are familiar with Dutch medals or medalists, explain it?

Yours respectfully,

GEO. T. PAINE.

VARIA.

The mystic letters R F, on the Louisiana coppers, continue to engage the attention of the Rhode Island Numismatic Association, but no Daniel has as yet interpreted them convincingly. They may stand for "Royaume Français", or, as the legend is in Latin, for "Regnum Francorum", or "Regnum Franciæ." Any elucidation of their meaning will be thankfully received by Mr. John J. Meader, Secretary of the Association, Providence.—Mr. Samuel B. Ruggles, who has just returned from the International Monetary Convention at Paris, presented to the President, on Wednesday morning, Nov 27, the new proposed international twenty-five-franc five-dollar gold piece.—It was announced in a St. Petersburg paper of last June, that the Russian government intended to resume the emission of Platinum coins.—Among the news from Shanghai, last August, was a statement that the Chinese merchants refuse to receive, as currency, Mexican dollars coined during the reign of the late emperor Maximilian.—We hear that Mr. E. D. Griffin, of Aurora, Ill., has a full set of American silver dollars, including the 1804, which last has been in his possession for twenty years. With regard to this piece, we may expect henceforward a "Lo, here!", and "Lo, there!", from many different quarters. Not so with the Double Eagle of 1849, struck in December of that year, of which the specimen in the Mint Cabinet is believed by Mr. Dubois to be the only one in existence.—A correspondent writes: "Would No. 1, Series A, of One Dollar greenbacks be worth any thing to any collector in your city? If so, please inform me".—From Mr. Dubois, of the U. S. Mint, we learn, that the Hill Die Machine, which is now in operation there, and "which seems to have a mind as well as a body", is working at present on the Medal of Cyrus Field.